

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4351

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 0229

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, LU

SUBJECT: THORN REQUEST FOR CONSULTATIONS ON UN

REF: (A) STATE 066247; (B) USUN 1039; (C) STATE 061844

1. AS TIME FOR MAY EC COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF UN MATTERS APPROACHES, AND A STALEMATE PERSISTS IN WEO GROUP, EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT NOW RECONSIDER ADVISABILITY OF INITIATING UN CONSULTATIONS WITH THORN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO WAIT FOR WEO GROUP DECISION BUT IT IS NONETHELESS CLEAR THAT IMPACT OF CONSULTATIONS ON THORN WILL BE CONSIDERABLY LESS IF THEY BEGIN AFTER MAY EC COUNCIL AND AFTER FORMAL WEO GROUP DESIGNATION. THORN IS NOT PRESSING FOR BRIEFINGS TO START (WURTH HAS TOLD US THAT THEY COULD COMMENCE EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER MAY EC COUNCIL) BUT U. S. INTEREST IN BEGINNING SOONEST SEEMS EVIDENT FOR FOLLOWING REASONS: (1) THORN IS PRESENTLY UNSURE ABOUT THE EVENTUAL SUCCESS OF HIS CANDIDACY, WHICH MAKES HIM PARTICULARLY RECEPTIVE TO THE EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE WHICH USG BRIEFINGS WOULD REPRESENT AND (2) TO PLACE U. S. INPUT BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS SENIOR STAFF WELL BEFORE EC AND OTHER NATIONAL POSITIONS REACH HIM ALSO WEIGHS IN OUR FAVOR, GIVEN GOL GRATIFICATION AT ANY BILATERAL ATTENTION FROM THE USG. MOREOVER, DUE TO PARIS' STRONG AND EARLY ENDORSEMENT OF THE THORN CANDIDACY, WE CANNOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY

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THAT THE FRENCH MAY NOW BE INITIATING SOME QUIET DISCUSSIONS

WITH THORN ON UN MATTERS. REGARDING DISCLOSURE, THORN SEEMS ADAMANT THAT THE CONSULTATIONS REMAIN PRIVATE BETWEEN THE USG AND GOL. GIVEN HIS POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT WITH EC PARTNERS WERE THE CONSULTATIONS TO BECOME KNOWN, WE JUDGE THAT THIS IS ONE CASE WHERE THORN'S DISCRETION CAN PROBABLY BE RELIED UPON. EVEN IF WORD OF THESE CONSULTATIONS REACHED OTHER UNGA PRESIDENCY CANDIDATES, USG COULD STATE THAT INITIATIVE CAME FROM GOL AND EXPRESS WILLINGNESS TO AGREE TO SIMILAR REQUESTS FROM OTHERS.

2. REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF TOP GOL AIDES ARRIVING EARLY IN NEW YORK, DCM AGAIN RECENTLY URGED WURTH TO CHOOSE SUCH REPRESENTATIVES AS SOON AS WEO GROUP DESIGNATES THORN. WURTH REPLIED THAT MFA STAFFING WOULD SIMPLY NOT PERMIT EXTENDED ABSENCE BY MEMBERS OF THORN'S SENIOR STAFF, AND THAT PRIME MINISTER WANTED PRINCIPAL CONSULTATIONS ON UN WITH USG TO TAKE PLACE IN LUXEMBOURG. STRONG U. S. RECOMMENDATION ON SENDING ADVANCE AIDES TO NEW YORK SHOULD OF COURSE BE REITERATED TO THORN DIRECTLY ONCE USG BRIEFINGS BEGIN (AS PROPOSED IN PARA 3 REFTEL (C)).

3. BECAUSE THE TIMING OF OUR INITIATIVE APPEARS CRUCIAL IN DETERMINING ITS INFLUENCE ON THORN, WE RECOMMEND THAT A VERY SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL BE PREPARED TO BEGIN BRIEFING THORN IN LUXEMBOURG IN LATE APRIL.
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